



Trident Article

Army-Navy 2006 ~ Rugby Style!

In the fall of 2002 the Army and Navy rugby teams agreed to play the first of what has become known today as the Annual Fall Army/Navy Rugby Football Classic.

Established in 1963, the rugby team fosters a warrior ethos that routinely produces young officers who go on to serve in the most demanding warfare communities in the Navy and Marine Corps.

The Army-Navy rugby match rivals that seen in any other service academy competition and in the spectrum of collegiate rugby it is recognized as one of the premier rivalries in the nation.

"We as a team are always looking for tough competition, especially in the fall season. We love playing Army because not only are we two of the most closely matched teams in the country, we are also the biggest rivalry in collegiate rugby," states Team Captain and All-American Midn. 1/C Blake Lindsay.

Navy is 4 and 1 in the Potomac Rugby Union and also has non-conference victories over Air Force and Ohio State while Army is undefeated in the New England Rugby Football Union.

Over the past 4 annual meetings, Army has won two games, Navy has won one, and they have tied once. The 5th Annual Fall Army/Navy Rugby Football Match promises to be a very physical and highly charged event between two nationally ranked teams.

The USA Rugby Collegiate Championship playoff system was established in 1980 and since that time Navy has been to the Final Four nine times. Navy's last trip to the Final Four was in 2005.

"It has been my goal throughout my 4 years here at the Academy to win a National Championship and playing a team like Army will give the team a good indication of how we are doing as well as how tough the competition will be," said Midn. 1/C Graham Cleveland. Cleveland and his three older brothers have all played rugby here at the Academy and he is hoping to be the first and only one among them to win the National Title.

"Rugby is an intense sport with big hits by men who don't wear pads. Saturday's match will be very physical and we are looking forward to the awesome support of the Brigade," states Lindsay. "80 minutes of intense, high performance rugby goes by very quickly when you have the Brigade

cheering you on – their support will be very motivating for us.”

The 5th Annual Army-Navy Rugby Fall Classic will kick off at 6:00 p.m. Saturday, 18 November 2006 on Farragut Field.

For directions to Farragut Field or other Army/Navy information please visit

www.usna.edu/Rugby/ArmyNavyClassic.htm